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PRAIRIE VIEW

Vol 1, No 1

PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

JANUARY 1986



Notes From The President's Desk

With this issue of the PV Review, we initiate a new means of communication for the Prairie View family. Published by the University, it will attempt to highlight important events and accomplishments in the life of the University. It is our hope that this information will help all of us in our cooperative venture of nurturing educational excellence at Prairie View.

There are many ways to measure the progress of a university; the most important are quality measures. However, quantity measures are also important since our funding depends on such things as the number of students we have. The passage of Proposition 2 did give us a new source of funds to pursue excellence. However, we are still expected to run the University primarily on formula funding.

I am happy to report that our Fall 1985 enrollment showed a four percent increase over the previous year. This is the first increase since 1979 and represents Prairie View's largest enrollment since 1980. This increase can be attributed to many factors. Much of the credit must go to our recruiting staff (see President, page 4)

Academic Scholarships Attract Top Students

This year's freshman class includes 227 students attracted to Prairie View A&M University by a generous academic scholarship program. According to Dr. Elaine Adams, Chairperson of the University Scholarship Committee, nearly one-half million dollars in annual scholarships were awarded and accepted by incoming students this year.

The students come from several states and foreign countries in addition to a large number who attended Texas high schools. Among the foreign countries represented are Bangladesh, Jamaica, Singapore, Trinidad, the Union of South Africa, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

There are three National Achievement Scholars Program finalists in the group: Norris Arceneaux, a biology major from Hull-Daisetta High School; Amy Jolivet, a biology major from Houston's High School for Health Professions; and Darryl Thompson, a mechanical engineering major from Florida's Stanton College Preparatory. Joseph E. Hernandez, a National Hispanic Scholars Program semi-finalist, is a management major from South Houston High School.

W. R. Banks Library Funding Increased

Funding for expansion of the collection of volumes and current journals in the W. R. Banks Library has been significantly increased over previous years.

Last year's funding for both books (see Library, page 4)

Scholarship awards range from \$1,500.00 per year to \$3,000.00 per year, renewable for the period of undergraduate enrollment as long as the scholarship requirements are met.



Arceneaux



Thompson



Jolivet



Hernandez

Awards are made on the basis of SAT and ACT test scores, grade point averages, and class ranks. The scholarship program will be continued next year.

PROFILE

Dr. Elaine Adams

Dr. Elaine Adams has been recently appointed Vice-President for Student Affairs. However, the scope of her involvement in the planning and implementation of various university programs gives her unique insight into



(see Dr. Adams, page 3)

Success Touted for Pre-College Program

One of the most exciting and rewarding programs conducted at Prairie View A&M University this summer was the Institute for Pre-College Enrichment. This program attracted career-minded high school students from Texas, as well as thirteen other states, namely Arkansas, California, Florida, Illinois, Indiana, Louisiana, Maryland, Michigan, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, Tennessee, and Virginia. A total of two hundred and sixty-one students, including Anglo and Hispanic students, participated in three two-week workshops.

The enrichment programs, designed for 11th and 12th graders, introduced students to careers in biology, computer science, education, engineering, home economics, mathematics, nursing, and social work. The core curriculum of the workshops included diagnostic and prescriptive instruction in mathematics, science, English and study skills.

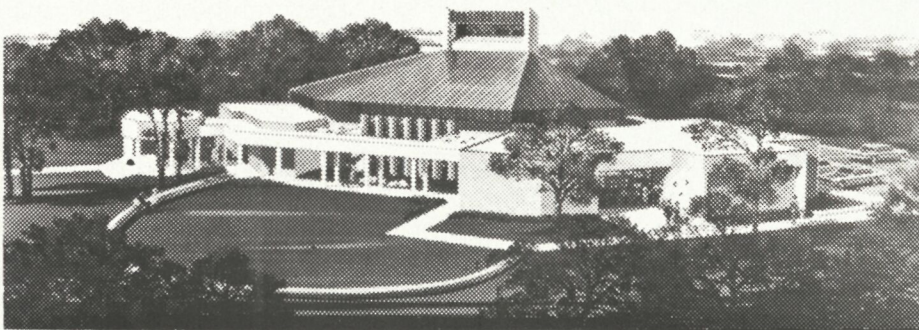
During the two-week residential workshops, students toured a number of Houston sites. They visited the

Federal Aeronautics Administration Tower, Westinghouse, Dow Chemical, Baylor School of Nursing, Prairie View School of Nursing, Region IV Education Service Center, Goodwill Industries, Memorial City Hospital Birthing Center, ARAMCO Services Company, and Sewing Connection.

Also, the program participants attended several cultural events. The list of these activities included: "Father's Day Tribute to Dr. 'Tex' Allen" presented by Debbie Allen and Phylicia Ayres Allen; two plays, "Young, Gifted and Black" and "Cast Your Vote for Jesus", presented by the Charles Gilpin Players of Prairie View A&M University; and the Miss Texas Pageant in Fort Worth.

Prairie View A&M University plans to continue its summer enrichment program and conduct follow-up communications on the students' academic progress in their respective high schools. Because of the success of the 1985 Institute for Pre-College Enrichment, many of the participants are expected to enroll in these summer workshops and, ultimately, to enroll as students at this university.

Dedication Set for All Faiths Chapel



Construction is nearly two thirds completed for the All Faiths Chapel. Dedication services for the new facility are tentatively set for February 5, 1986.

The sanctuary will seat 365 persons, and a separate meditation room will seat between 45-50. Offices for the Dean of the Chapel and other campus chaplains will be located in the chapel. In addition to storage and related

miscellaneous space, the chapel will have a courtyard that can be used for outdoor concerts, weddings and other special programming.

The current proposed opening will coincide with the Annual Minister's Conference. Over 1000 people including delegates to the Minister's Conference are expected to be in attendance.

Graduate School Assistantships Increase

A new program of University Graduate Assistantships was initiated this fall, according to Dr. Arthur Washington, Dean of the Graduate School. Eleven highly qualified students were awarded assistantships in September. This program is designed to attract very able students to our graduate programs.

The University Assistantships are for either \$8,000.00 or \$10,000.00. GPA and Graduate Record Exam scores of 3.5 and 1,000, respectively are partial criteria for selection.

According to Dr. Washington, other kinds of aid are also available.

President's "House" Now Open to Staff

Grand Opening of the Faculty Dining Room and President's Guest House was held December 12th. The home, located at the main entrance to the campus, was originally designed to house the family of the University President.

As an auxiliary enterprise of the university, the refurbished home will now provide an atmosphere for formal and informal meetings and an appropriate facility for the entertaining and housing of official guests of the President and University.

The Faculty Dining Room will be open Mondays through Fridays for service during breakfast and lunch hours. Club members and their guests can enjoy coffee breaks and buffet lunches. There will also be opportunity for a variety of social activities during evenings and weekends.

There will be a membership fee of \$25.00, and all active and retired faculty and executive/support staff are eligible for membership. Membership applications are available in the President office or by contacting Mrs. Pauline Bonner at extension 4516.

Major Gift Spawns T.V. Expansion

The Department of Communications received a major gift of television equipment which will ensure the continued development of the department's training and production capabilities in television. The Summer 1984 gift is spurring exciting developments in the Communications Program that will benefit the entire university community.

The Houston office of the multinational firm, M. W. Kellogg Corporation, donated approximately \$200,000 in equipment for the Hilliard Hall Communications Center television studios. The gift includes several cameras, engineering and control equipment, lighting gear, and TV monitors.

Students in the Radio/Television curriculum now have the opportunity for hands-on experience with the television equipment, a significant step forward in the training of students for media positions after graduation.

Numerous possibilities exist for the future as the program develops: expansion to other cable markets and the possible inauguration of an educational television station on the campus.

The new television prospects are being developed as the fourth anni-

versary of KPVM-FM's radio broadcasting was celebrated on Thanksgiving, 1985. Prairie View's radio-television program is on the threshold of a totally new era in the age of communications.

The current goal is for the studios to be connected by cable or microwave to local cable television outlets, providing an outlet for Prairie View A&M University to tell its story to a larger audience than previously available. Dr. Millard Eiland, Communications Department Head, and Mr. Ed Shannon, Radio/Television Manager, emphasize that the television capacity will allow all faculty and all departments' programs and expertise, as well as activities of the university to be showcased on television.

ROTC Grant Upgrades Program

Prairie View A&M University was awarded \$134,132.96 to support an ROTC Skills Development Program for the 1985-86 school year. The program is intended to improve skill levels in reading, written English expression, mathematics, oral communication, and cognitive skills as they relate to on-duty performance requirements in the U.S. Army.

The Enhanced Skill Training Program is directed by Dr. Mary Hawkins. The three instructors are Mr. Frank Bayer (English), Dr. Tommie A. Hill (Mathematics), and Ms. Jane Ryder (Reading).

We expect the program to be successful and to serve as a model for other programs wherein similar skill levels need to be improved.

Profile: Dr. Elaine Adams

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the direction that Prairie View now faces.

Prior to her assignment, Dr. Adams was Associate Vice-President for Academic Services and Planning. Among other responsibilities, she reorganized the library, recruited a new director and managed the design of the new library building for PVAMU.

The Benjamin Banneker Honors College was planned and implemented with her critical support, from the initial funding proposal writing to the recruitment of key staff and students. Dr. Adams implemented the new academic scholarship program that has attracted National Achievement Program scholars and National Hispanic Program scholars to the campus.

According to President Pierre, "Dr. Adams has provided invaluable service to the area of planning." She was the principal data gatherer, compiler and analyst of the needs assessment for the campus master plan. She was a principal author of the University Five Year Plan, and she monitors the progress of the Texas Plan and the Target 2000 Plan.

Dr. Adams' new assignment reduces some of her academic service responsibilities and increases her student service responsibilities by adding student activities, counseling, career education and placement, the student center and the health center. She retains responsibility for pre-college programs, recruitment, admissions and financial aid.

Dr. Adams received her Bachelor's Degree in Spanish Education from Xavier University and her Master's Degree in Library Science from Louisiana State University. She was awarded the Ph.D. in Library Science from the University of Southern California in 1973. Dr. Adams has held academic appointments at Xavier University, the University of Maryland, the University of Houston-Clear Lake.

She has developed and managed learning resources centers at the University of Southern California, Health Sciences Campus and at Texas Southern University. Her industrial experience includes a stint as a manager of information services and training at the Getty Oil Research Center.

Regents Approve Phase IV Plans

The Texas A&M Board of Regents has approved the preliminary design plans for Campus Development Phase IV. This is a continuation of the "beautification" of the campus which has had a dramatic impact on the campus core and will significantly upgrade the overall appearance of outlying areas of the campus.

Over three million dollars have been encumbered to implement the improvements which include sidewalks and plazas, improved drainage, lighting and landscaping. Lighted outdoor basketball courts are another feature of the plan that is scheduled for completion in the Summer of 1987.

President's Notes

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who worked diligently to identify students and continued to work with individual students after they were actually registered. Another factor was the special effort of the Office for Admissions/Financial Aid to work with students to meet the increased financial requirements occasioned by the increased tuition. Perhaps most important was the work done in the colleges and departments to reach out to students and make them aware of the opportunities here at Prairie View. In other words, it was a university-wide effort.

While we are pleased with the total increase, we are also pleased with the excellent quality of the class of 1989. Some 227 students came to Prairie View on University Academic Scholarships. All of these students had outstanding high school records. Among these students were 90 Banneker Students. Our ROTC programs also attracted outstanding students. Last year the Army ROTC program recruited only one student who was eligible for a special scholarship based on S.A.T. scores. This year they recruited seven. The Navy had a banner year in recruiting the "few good men and women" they are constantly seeking.

We are also fortunate in attracting talented students in art, drama and music. The University Band showed

clear evidence of this talent. Our new "talent" scholarships helped in this respect.

Our student body is also becoming more diverse. Thirteen percent of our student body is either white, Hispanic or Asian.

Clearly, Prairie View is becoming the University of choice for more and more well prepared students seeking excellent education. PV's challenge is to meet the needs of these students while continuing to provide opportunity to the many capable, but less well prepared students who come to us.

Banks Library

(continued from page 1)

and current journals totaled some \$65,000. This year \$313,000 has been allocated.

In addition, \$125,000 will be spent for audio-visual and computer software packages. Another \$90,000 has been spent in reducing many older journals to micro-format.

Dr. Don Sweet, Director of the Library points to the scheduled completion of a new library in school year 86/87 and the 500% increase in materials acquisition funding "as a clear signal that the library, its facilities, and services will play a more integral role in the movement toward increased academic excellence at PVAMU."

PVAMU President Appointed To High Level Boards

President Percy Pierre heads the list of Prairie View administrators and faculty who have received recent appointments to high level committees, boards or advisory groups.

Dr. Pierre will serve on the University Forum of the Department of Defense. Chartered as an official advisory committee to the Department of Defense, the University Forum is co-sponsored by the Association of American Universities, the National Association of State Universities and Land Grant Colleges, and the American Council on Education. The Forum serves to advise the Defense Department on policy matters related to university research and education.

The president will also serve as member of the Lincoln Laboratory Advisory Board of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. The Board is composed of outstanding individuals with backgrounds in technology, national security policy, and technical management.

Dr. Paul Gary, Massachusetts Institute of Technology President, says "we expect that Dr. Pierre will provide valuable advice as a member of a group of outside experts to the M.I.T. administration and the Lincoln Laboratory management."

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